

APPLICATION NO. 09/769,326

APPLICANT: REY Z. MENDOZA

FILING DATE: 1/26/01

loop coupled to the outer peripheral edge of the mesh web and extending thereabout, wherein a tensioning of the closure loop will effect pivoting of the arms upwardly from the ground surface to cause the capturing means to close in about debris when positioned upon the mesh web."

My invention has a cylindrical (not rectangular) shape frame; a plurality of vertical legs to support (not arms to hold), pivotally mounted to the base and top frame (not outer peripheral edge); wherein downward pressure on the top frame (not pull upwardly to pivot the outer peripheral edge) will effect pivoting of the legs outwards (not upwards) from the vertical center to cause the hamper to change shape from a cylinder to a polygon and be rolled over the surface. Totally different shapes, support structures, mechanism, purpose, and function.

Ref. Doc. No. 6089394

"A collapsible hamper having top and bottom generally stiff frames, a body of flexible sheet material secured to and extending lengthwise between the frames, and a plurality of generally stiff legs having top and bottom ends, the hamper having collapsed and assembled states, each leg positionable transversely between and engaging the top and bottom frames with its top and bottom ends respectively for urging the frames apart and thereby stretching the body in the lengthwise direction when the hamper is in its assembled state, the frames being moved towards each other and the body folded when the hamper is in the collapsed state has stretchable elastic hinge means fixedly attaching the top end of each leg to said top frame."

My hamper invention is only partially collapsible (not totally), cylindrical in shape (not box shape), having top and bottom circular (not square) frames, a plurality of "breakable" legs (not stiff legs) positioned vertically (not transversely), with the top and bottom ends connected to the top and bottom circular frames by hinges (not just the top), the hamper having an upright and expanded (not collapsed) state, each leg divided into three equal pieces (not one piece) joined together by hinges to allow the legs to pivot at the hinge points thereby expanding (not collapsing) the body in the outward horizontal direction (not in the downward vertical direction) to the expanded state where it can be rolled. Totally different shapes, support structures, mechanism, purpose, and function.

Ref. Doc. No. 4040460

"A collapsible bucket comprising a bottom rim, a plurality of base support members affixed to said bottom rim, a plurality of telescoping erecting members affixed to said bottom rim, a plurality of support rings affixed to the telescoping erecting members, a top rim affixed to the top of said telescoping erecting members, a handle affixed to said top rim, and a collapsible fabric member disposed over said top rim and secured."

My invention is a partially collapsible and expandable hamper for rolling (not a totally collapsible bucket for storage) comprising a top and bottom rim (not just bottom rim), a plurality of vertical leg members divided into three equal parts connected by hinges (not telescoping erecting members), said legs affixed to the top and bottom rim by hinges (not supporting rings), and a flexible sheet material disposed over the exterior (not interior) of the frame. Totally different shapes, support structures, mechanism, purpose, and function.

Ref. Doc. No. 1848929

"A collapsible receptacle including spaced wire rings, wire spacing members comprising V and inverted V-shaped portions pivotally united at their apexes to each other, and an intermediate locking ring operable within the uppermost V-shaped members for holding the spacing rings rigid, and a bag removeably positioned within."

My invention utilizes vertical leg members (not V and inverted V spacing members wound about each other) to connect the upper and lower circular frames, is only partially collapsible to the extent of

APPLICATION NO. 09/769,326

APPLICANT: REY Z. MENDOZA

FILING DATE: 1/26/01

expanding to form a polygon to allow rolling (not collapsible to the extent that the top and bottom rings almost touch and for storage), a body of flexible material enclosing the frame (not a fabric pail or bucket within the frame). Totally different support structure, mechanism, purpose, and function.

Ref. Doc. No. 1928976

"A collapsible box with top and bottom rectangular rod-like rigid frames, front and back frames consisting of a pair of rule-joint struts at the ends of the frames and an intermediate rule-joint strut secured to longitudinal bars, said top and bottom ends being bent around said rectangular rod-like frames as hinge loops, and a rule-joint strut for each end of said receptacle connecting the top and bottom rod-like frames in the middle of the end portions, all of said struts breaking inwardly for folding and storage."

My invention is has a cylindrical frame (not a box), consisting of a plurality of vertical legs connected to the top and bottom frames by hinges (not joint-rule struts), two equally-spaced joint hinges in each of the vertical legs (not one intermediate joint-rule strut), all hinges breaking outwardly for expansion and rolling (not struts breaking inwardly for folding and storage), a body of flexible material fitted outside the frame (not a canvas bag fitted within the frame). Totally different support structure, mechanism, purpose, and function.

Ref. Doc. No. 2476531

"A collapsible container top and bottom hoops, a plurality of jointed, equally spaced stanchions each pivotally attached to the top and bottom hoops, an intermediate hoop vertically and adjustably supported by said stanchions for adjustment of said container either to its erect or collapsed condition, said stanchions each comprising a pair of opposed substantially U-shaped frames, a folded clamp uniting each pair of said frames and forming a pivotal union at one end of each of said frames for pivotally securing top and bottom hoops, and a fabric-like container within the frame."

My invention utilizes vertical legs with hinges to support the top and bottom frames (not two opposed U-shaped stanchions joined by a folded clamp, and no intermediate frame), a body of flexible material enclosing the frame (not a fabric container within the frame). My invention can be rolled without the contents being dislodged. Totally different support structure, mechanism, purpose, and function.

Ref. Doc. No. 2665970

"A collapsible basket comprising a rigid panel forming the bottom, a rectangular top rim, a pair of U-shaped side members secured to said rim at opposite corners and base portion extending along the bottom panel, an H-shaped tie member on each side member with a pair of legs secured to the base and a pair of legs coiled about the top rim, to hold the side members against the flexible covering."

My invention is a partially collapsible hamper (not collapsible basket), comprising circular top and bottom rims (not rectangular bottom panel and top rim), a plurality of vertical legs (not U-shaped and H-shaped side members), joined to the top and bottom rims by hinges (not coiled to the top rim and secured to the bottom panel). My invention can be rolled without the contents being dislodged. Totally different support structure, mechanism, purpose, and function.

Ref. Doc. No. 2913029

"A bulk transporting and storing container comprising a flexible bag rectangular in cross section, a collapsible framework comprising upper and lower tubular longitudinal and transverse members adjustably fitting into sockets in corner pieces at opposite ends of the framework, and vertical corner members extending between and removably and adjustably fitting into sockets at said corner pieces."

My invention is a laundry hamper (not a bulk container), a cylindrical shape (not rectangular), a partially collapsible framework for expansion (not collapsible to a smaller size), has upper and lower

APPLICATION NO. 09/769,326

APPLICANT: REY Z. MENDOZA

FILING DATE: 1/26/01

circular frames (not upper and lower longitudinal and transverse frames), connected by hinges to a plurality of vertical leg members (not by sockets to vertical corner members). My invention can be rolled without the contents being dislodged. Totally different support structure, mechanism, purpose and function.

Ref. Doc. No. 4299365

"A spreader for leaf bags collapsible for compact packaging and storage with skid elements to permit dragging along the ground, having a generally rectangular cross section which is inserted into a bag to hold the bag open, comprising a plurality of longitudinal extending frame members and cross members connected by means of sufficient frictional resistance to maintain the frame in the expanded position."

My invention is a rolling laundry hamper (not leaf container for dragging), is cylindrical in shape (not rectangular), has circular top and bottom frames and vertical leg members (not longitudinal frame and cross members), utilizes locking hinges to maintain the frame in the upright and expanded positions (not frictional resistance to hold it upright). Totally different support structure, mechanism, purpose and function.

REVISED CLAIMS:

The following are my revised claims based on the Remarks/Arguments above:

What the invention claimed is:

1. A partially collapsible hamper having a cylindrical upright state and a polygon expanded state comprising a top and a bottom circular frame, a plurality of pivoting vertical leg members extending between the top and bottom circular frames, a body of flexible sheet material extending from the top circular frame down to and enclosing the vertical legs and bottom circular frame.
2. The partially collapsible hamper of claim 1 wherein said vertical leg members are connected to the top and bottom circular frames by hinges, each vertical leg member divided into three equal parts and joined together by hinges at points a third and two thirds of the length of each leg member; the improvement comprising said hinges that lock said leg members in the vertical position until downward pressure is applied to unlock the hinges and move the top third and bottom third portions of said leg members outward and away from the center to 45-degree angles from the vertical where said hinges again lock in place while the middle third portion of said leg members remain in the upright vertical orientation.

Ry Mendoza
1/22/02